

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 /069 W

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R 011700Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1870

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, WB, UR, US, FR, UK

SUBJECT: RUDOLF HESS

REF: (A) BONN 11700; (B) USBER 1423

SUMMARY: IN JULY 29 TRIPARTITE BONN GROUP MEETING, UK REP REPORTED UKBER HAD RECEIVED A LETTER WHICH CONTAINED THE SAME SORT OF PROPOSAL FLOATED BY SCHARF (REFTEL A) FROM HERR ZIMMERMANN OF THE CHRISTLICHE FRIEDENSKONFERENZ; ALL REPS AGREED TO RECOMMEND BERLIN MISSIONS RESPOND TO THE LETTER WITH NO MORE THAN A POLITE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. US REP TOOK LINE SUGGESTED IN PARA 3 REFTTEL B RE ALLIED RESPONSE TO SCHARF PROPOSAL, BUT UK AND FRENCH REPS TOOK FIRM POSITION AGAINST ANY FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF SCHARF'S REMARKS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT JULY 29 TRIPARTITE BONN GROUP MEETING, UK REP (CROMARTIE) STATED THAT UKBER HAD RECEIVED A LETTER CONTAINING THE SAME SORT OF PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY
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BISHOP SCHARF IN HIS JULY 12 CONVERSATION WITH

AMBASSADOR WORMSER (REFTEL A); THE LETTER WAS FROM A HERR ZIMMERMANN OF THE THEOLOGISCHER ARBEITSKREIS DER CHRISTLICHEN FRIEDENSKONFERENZ. CROMARTIE SAID THE LETTER WAS ALSO ADDRESSED TO THE OTHER BERLIN MISSIONS, AND THAT IT WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO A LETTER DATED AUGUST 8, 1971 FROM THE FRIEDENSKONFERENZ ON HESS. ALL REPS AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT BERLIN MISSIONS RESPOND TO THE LETTER WITH A SIMPLE, POLITE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

2. CROMARTIE STATED THAT THE SCHARF IDEA WAS A NON-STARTER FROM THE UK POINT OF VIEW; IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN INDIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS RE HESS; THE ALLIES SHOULD MAKE NO RESPONSE TO THE SCHARF PROPOSAL.

3. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) REPORTED THAT HE HAD A FURTHER REPORT FROM BERLIN RE SCHARF. SCHARF TOLD THE FRENCH MINISTER HE HAD SPOKEN WITH SOVIET CONGEN SHARKOV ABOUT HESS AND ASKED IF THE SOVIET POSITION HAD CHANGED. SHARKOV REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT ANSWER IMMEDIATELY, BUT WOULD CHECK. SUBSEQUENTLY, SHARKOV REPORTEDLY TOLD SCHARF THAT THE SOVIET POSITION REMAINED UNCHANGED "FOR TIME BEING." AS A CONSEQUENCE, SCHARF DECIDED NOT TO APPROACH ABRASIMOV (PARA 3 REFTTEL A). BOISSIEU ALSO NOTED THAT THE FRENCH BERLIN MISSION HAD REPORTED THAT USBER WAS "SOFT" ON SCHARF'S PROPOSAL.

4. US REP RESPONDED THAT USBER WAS NOT SOFT ON THE ISSUE, BUT RATHER THAT OUR MISSION FELT THAT THE SCHARF PROPOSAL WAS WORTH REFLECTING ON--THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT SIMPLY DISMISS THE IDEA OUT OF HAND. AFTER ALL, THE SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE A PERMANENT PRESENCE IN WSB, AND A SMALL PLAQUE AGAINST FASCISM AT SPANDAU MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE IN EXCHANGE FOR HESS' RELEASE. THE SOVIETS SOMETIMES USE INDIRECT CONTACTS TO FLOAT ISSUES OF THIS SORT, AND IT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO GO BACK TO SCHARF TO TRY TO GET A CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND.

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5. BOISSIEU REPLIED THAT A PERMANENT SOVIET PRESENCE IN SPANDAU IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN ITS OTHER CURRENT MANIFESTATIONS IN WSB BECAUSE THEY ARE COVERED BY THE QA WHEREAS A PERMANENT PRESENCE AT SPANDAU WOULD NOT. THE ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SOVIETS ON THE STATUS OF THE MEMORIAL. THE HARD QUESTION FOR THE ALLIES WOULD BE WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT THAT HESS DIED DURING THE TALKS; THE SOVIETS MIGHT CLAIM THAT

ANY ITEMS ALREADY AGREED UPON WERE BINDING.

6. US REP REPLIED THAT THIS WAS CLEARLY THE WORST CASE HYPOTHESIS. THE ALLIES COULD MAKE CLEAR AT THE OUTSET THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PARTIAL PACKAGE IF HESS DIED. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE TWO FURTHER POINTS TO BE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1871

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12486

CONSIDERED: (1) WHEREAS THE SCHARF PROPOSAL IS CLEARLY NOT THE IDEAL SOLUTION, SIMPLY IGNORING THE IDEA DOES NOT SOLVE THE HESS PROBLEM, FOR THE ALLIES WILL BE FACED WITH IT IN ANY CASE WHEN HESS DIES; AND (2) SCHARF MAY LEAK HIS PROPOSAL TO THE PRESS, THEREBY MAKING IT APPEAR THAT THE ALLIES ARE THE ONES WHO STAND IN THE WAY OF HESS' RELEASE.

7. CROMARTIE SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT SCHARF HAD SOMETHING MORE AMBITIOUS IN MIND THAN A PLAQUE AT SPANDAU.

HE THEN STATED THE UK COULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH
SUCH A PROPOSAL AND DISMISSED THE WHOLE IDEA AS A
"TREACHEROUS WILL OF THE WISP."

8. GIVEN THE STRONG BRITISH AND FRENCH OPPOSITION THE
US REP JOINED IN A CONSENSUS FOR SAYING NOTHING MORE
TO SCHARF, UNLESS IT APPEARS THAT AMB. WORMSER OWES
HIM A REPLY (BOISSIEU THOUGHT NOT BUT WILL CHECK).
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BOISSIEU ALSO ADDED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THERE IS NO
NEED TO SAY ANYTHING MORE TO THE FRG ABOUT THE SCHARF
INITIATIVE AND IMPLIED THAT IT MAY HAVE BEEN A MISTAKE
FOR WORMSER TO HAVE BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT WITH
GEHLHOFF (BONN 11870).
HILLENBRAND

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